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Term: (message or document or text or page or fax or transmi$6 or job)near4 (manag$6 or control$4 or server or manipulat$4) near6 (computer or host or

Display: |10 | **Documents in Display Format:** |- | **Starting with Number** |1 |

Generate: ○ Hit List ◉ Hit Count ○ Side by Side ○ Image

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Search History

DATE: Tuesday, February 03, 2004 — Printable Copy — Create Case

Set Name side by side	Query	Hit Count	Set Name result set
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near3 (e or electron$3)near3 (mail or document or message)) near8 (manag$6 or control$4 or server or manipulat$4) and @ad<20000323

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END OF SEARCH HISTORY

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L6: Entry 69 of 185   File: USPT   Feb 15, 2000

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6025931 A
TITLE: Facsimile to E-mail communication system with local interface

Application Filing Date (1):
19970820

Brief Summary Text (8):
The present invention bridges two networks, interacting first in the telephone
network (PTN) to transmit as telephony signals a facsimile message to the FEM-
GATEWAY and then interacting in the E-mail network (through the "Internet" or other
data networks) to deliver an E-mail message to its intended E-mail address. A
sender wishing to send a facsimile message selectively activates the interface
device locally associated with the sending fax machine which results in the fax
being sent differently than a normal fax transmission. In accordance with the
preferred embodiments, the interface device initiates a connection through the PTN
to a server at a remote FEM-GATEWAY, and the interface device interacts with that
server to generate and deliver to the intended recipient's E-mail address an E-mail
message to which is attached the facsimile document formatted as a computer-
readable image file compatible with the recipient's E-mail terminal.

Detailed Description Text (13):
FIG. 3. displays, in a block diagram representation, the E-mail Server 112
according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention. The E-mail Server
comprises an E-mail network interface 200 which connects to the E-mail network 116
through a communication link 202 and to a bus 204 for interexchange of signals with
other components of the E-mail Server 112. Preferably, the communication link 202
is a standard Ethernet communication link providing high-speed TCP/IP communication
carrier services. The E-mail network interface 200 is capable of multiplexed,
encoded communication exchanges to the E-mail network. The E-mail Server 112 is
considered readily understood by those skilled in the art and performs, as is
critical to the present invention, functions of receiving the addressed E-mail with
attachment (the E-mail message 270) and routing the E-mail message to the
appropriate network address along the E-mail network 116, using, for example,
TCP/IP and appropriate domain addressing and domain name services. FIG. 3 further
schematically depicts other basic components of a standard E-mail Server including
a data network interface 224 through which the E-mail Server interacts with the
data network 114, a central bus 204, CPU with RAM memory 206, mass storage 210, a
video display 216, keyboard 220, and power supply 222--all of the foregoing
components being configured and inter-operating in a manner that will be clearly
understood by one skilled in the art. Though deemed unnecessary in light of the
relevant skill in the art, the following are given by way of example as acceptable
components of the E-mail Server 112: E-mail network interface 200 as a model
1400FXSA modem available from Practical Peripherals, Inc. of Thousand Oaks, Calif.;
data network interface 224 as a model SMC9332DST available from Standard
Microsystems Corporation of Hauppauge, N.Y. which is compatible with the 100BaseT
Ethernet Standard and the TCP/IP protocol; and "Microsoft Exchange Mail" or "UNIX
SENDMAIL" operating on the CPU 206. In alternate embodiments of the present
invention, all or some of the E-mail functions of the gateway E-mail Server 112 are
incorporated as part of and performed by the Fax-Server 110. Furthermore, in
alternate embodiments, the data network 114 is simply the bus of a single PC which

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hosts the appropriate hardware and software of both the Fax-Server 110 and the E-mail Server 112, and the CPU/RAM, storage, video, keyboard and power supply are common, all as would be understood to one skilled in the art. Further explanation of the E-mail Server 112 is deemed not necessary as the appropriate hardware, software and operation thereof is considered well known to those skilled in the art.

Detailed Description Text (28):
In accordance with other alternate embodiments of the present invention, the Public Telephone Network 108 and E-mail network 116 are replaced by any of a variety of different interconnecting networks, including any combination of public, private, switched, non-switched, wireline, non-wireline, digital, analog, in-band signaling, out-of-band signaling, voice, data, local or wide area networks. In addition, although DTMF signaling and transfer of information through DTMF and data signaling formats are disclosed in the preferred embodiment of the present invention, other alternate embodiments of the present invention include methods and apparatus which accommodate signaling and transferring of information through alternate signaling networks and formats, including modem communications, integrated services digital network (ISDN) and other out-of-band and in-band signaling methods, whereby signals and information are communicated between a FEM-GATEWAY 104 and a fax interface device 102. According to still other alternate embodiments of the present invention, the apparatus of the Fax/E-mail communication system 100 comprises a FEM-GATEWAY 104 which employs only one computer that includes necessary hardware, and executes necessary programs present on the Fax-Server 110 and the E-mail-Server 112 of the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In still other alternate embodiments of the present invention, the apparatus of the Fax/E-mail communication system 100 comprises multiple computers, which include the necessary hardware and software present on the Fax-Server 110 of the preferred embodiment, and multiple computers which include the necessary hardware and software present on the E-mail-Server 112 of the preferred embodiment. It should be understood that it is within the scope of the present invention that indicated subsystems (servers 110, 112, 111) of the FEM-GATEWAY 104 are, acceptably, either geographically separated or geographically co-located.

CLAIMS:

2. The Method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of

encoding at the remote server the image data in the second format, whereby the image data transmitted to the mailbox is encoded; and

automatically decoding, using the e-mail browser, the image data in the second format upon downloading from said mailbox.

3. The Method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the image data in the second format comprises the step of creating at the remote server an e-mail message addressed to the received address, which e-mail message includes as part thereof the image data in the second format.

5. The Method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the image data in a second format comprises the step of appending at the remote server the image data in the second format to information portion indicating the sender and the destination address.

7. The Method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the image data in the second format comprises the step of creating at the remote server an e-mail message addressed to the received address, which e-mail message includes as part thereof the image data in the second format.

9. The Method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the image data in a

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second format comprises the step of appending at the remote server the image data in the second format to the information portion indicating the sender and the destination address.